

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 NIC-01

CU-04 IO-14 /131 W

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R 100930Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 6558

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

REF: HONG KONG 6485; PEKING 947

SUMMARY. BACKBONE UNITS OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, CALLED FOR AT THE OUTSET OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT, ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT TO THE FORE IN PROVINCIAL PROPAGANDA. THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED, HOWEVER SUPERFICIAL, IS THAT THE MOVEMENT IS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN. HOW THE UNITS ARE TO BE USED REMAINS TO BE SEEN BUT PEKING WANTS THEM UNDER CONTROL AND DISCIPLINED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PROVINCES ARE PICKING UP PEKING'S CALL FOR BUILDING A "CONTINGENT OF THEORETICIAN," SIGNALING THAT THE EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A BACKBONE ELEMENT OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AMONG THE MASSES IS TO BE GIVEN ADDED EMPHASIS. TWELVE PROVINCIAL RADIO
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STATIONS ON JUNE 4-5 CARRIED RED FLAG'S COMMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT

(REHDETA) TREATING IT AS THE MAJOR PROPAGANDA THEME AT THIS TIME AND ADDING SOME DETAIL ON THE INTENDED GOALS, ORGANIZATION, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITS.

2. THE FORMATION OF SUCH A POLITICAL BACKBONE AMONG THE MASSES WAS STATED AS A GOAL AT THE OUTSET OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND GROWS OUT OF THE CALL FOR GREATER MASS SUPERVISION AND CRITICISM OF CADRES AND PARTY AND STATE ORGANS WHICH WAS SET FORTH IN WANG HUNG-WEN'S SPEECH TO THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS LAST AUGUST. MASS IDEOLOGICAL STUDY AND POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT, OF COURSE, ARE HOARY MAOIST VALUES AND STANDARD PRESCRIPTIONS FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS; NO MOVEMENT WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THIS ELEMENT. WHEN THE MOVEMENT WAS LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY THE CALL WAS FOR SETTING UP THESE UNITS "GRADUALLY." APPARENTLY IT IS NOW TIME FOR THEM TO BLOOM.

3. DETAIL GLEANED FROM BROADCASTS THUS FAR PUT THE LOCAL PARTY LEADERSHIP IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZING AND DIRECTING THE BACKBONE UNITS BUT ALSO CALL FOR GIVING THE UNITS FULL PLAY, WHICH SOME BROADCASTS INDICATE IS A PROBLEM. THE UNITS ARE TO BE FORMED FROM ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE COME TO THE FORE IN THE ANTI-LIN PIAO/ CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT, BUT REVOLUTIONARY INTELLECTUALS ARE ALSO TO BE INCLUDED (SHANGHAI BROADCAST JUNE 4; Kiangsi JUNE 3), A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE FELT NEED TO BRING INTELLECTUALS INTO THE MOVEMENT AND OFFER THEM REFORMATION. THE ADMONITION TO AVOID ANY DISRUPTION TO PRODUCTION IS BEING HEAVILY UNDERSCORED IN THE PROVINCES WHILE, THUS FAR, RED FLAG'S OTHER STRICTURE--TO "LEARN WARFARE THROUGH WARFARE"--IS BEING PLAYED DOWN IN FAVOR OF LEADING THE MASSES IN "STUDY." FUKIEN, FOR EXAMPLE, PRESCRIBES FOR THE BACKBONE UNIT'S TWO ELEMENTS OF STUDY AND ONLY ONE OF INTEGRATING THEORY WITH PRACTICE (JUNE 3 BROADCAST). UNITS ARE APPARENTLY BEING FORMED WITHIN ALL OR MOST ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE MILITARY (FUKIEN BROADCAST JUNE 5).

4. COMMENT. THE MOVE TO BRING BACKBONE UNITS FORWARD AT THIS TIME SUGGESTS TO US THAT THE CAMPAIGN IS BEING DIRECTED ACCORDING TO PLAN, HOWEVER SUPERFICIAL THAT MAY BE IN TERMS OF ADVANCING TOWARD THE INTENDED GOALS. THE UNITS COULD PROVIDE CLAQUES TO LEAD MASS DENUNCIATION OF LOCAL--PARTICULARLY MILITARY--LEADERS MARKED FOR PURGE, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE UNITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE GOING TO BE MANIPULATED, AND BY WHOM. IT IS OBVIOUS SO FAR THAT THE CENTER WANTS THEM UNDER CONTROL AND DISCIPLINED. CROSS

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